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(c) whether special preference is proposed to be given in the matter of allowing grants to districts which are really more backward in education than many other districts?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Owing to lack of funds it was not found possible to make any increase in the grant originally allotted to Salem district.

(*c*) It is not proposed to give any district preference over another in the matter of grants on the ground of one district being more backward than another.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"If the Government are not giving encouragement to backward districts in due consideration of their backwardness in education, may I ask, Sir, in what way they are going to encourage such districts in regard to the promotion of education, and get them in line with the other districts?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"We have no such ideas at present in contemplation."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Will they at least consider that aspect of the question for future years?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"For future years, I cannot give any undertaking."

Protests against the Government Order forbidding the frequent change of text books in schools.

* 422 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether orders have been passed by the Government directing that schools should change their text books only once in five years;

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(*c*) whether any representations have been received from educationists and teachers' associations protesting against this Government Order, and if so, what action has been taken thereon;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Publishers and Booksellers' Association of South India offered to wait on him in deputation to explain their position with reference to this order; and

(*e*) if so, whether the offer was refused and what the reasons therefor are?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government Order was placed at the disposal of the Press.

(*c*) Yes. No action was taken as none was considered necessary.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) It was thought that no useful purpose would be served by receiving the deputation.

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Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of district boards which respected the Government Order prohibiting a frequent change of text-books, and those that were particularly asked not to change the text-books this year? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" We have received representations with regard to a few district boards who have acted in contravention of the Government Order, and the matter is being enquired."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" What steps do Government propose to take to see that the district boards respect Government Orders? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" That will be considered only after the matter is fully enquired into."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi:—" Do the Government believe that the order passed by the Government is very sound in this respect? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" Certainly it is sound."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi:—" Do the Government believe that they are not really helping a few monopolist companies by saying that text-books ought not to be changed for years to come? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—" I do not think so at all. The publishers themselves are protesting against this order."

Shifting of the Government Girls' High School, Salem, to the premises formerly occupied by the Government Training School.

* 423 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether orders have been passed for shifting the Government Girls' High School at Salem town to the buildings occupied by the Government Training School;

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(*c*) whether the Girls' High School has been shifted to the other building and, if so, when;

(*d*) what has been done with the building hitherto occupied by the Girls' High School;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the Municipality of Salem has offered to take the said building for their use;

(*f*) if so, on what conditions; and what orders have been passed in the matter; and

(*g*) what the present book value of the said buildings is?

A.—(*a*) Yes.
(*b*) No.
(*c*) No.
(*d*) Does not arise.
(*e*) Yes.
(*f*) The matter is under consideration.
(*g*) The Government have no information.